

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School 'Lesson'

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### LESSON FOR DECEMBER 24

#### A LESSON IN TRUST AND PREPAREDNESS

**LESSON TEXT**—Luke 12:13-40.  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.  
—Luke 12:13.  
**PRIMARY TOPIC**—The Story of a Foolish Rich Man.  
**JUNIOR TOPIC**—A Foolish Rich Man.  
**INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC**—Rich Toward God.  
**YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC**—True Riches.

Since on October 8 we had a lesson on the birth and childhood of Jesus, many will doubtless prefer to have this new lesson instead of the Christmas lesson.

#### I. A Warning Against Covetousness (vv. 13-21).

1. The Occasion (vv. 13-15). One of the company requested Jesus to be umpire in a disputed estate. Two brothers were in trouble over an inheritance. Christ refused to enter the sphere of the civil law and warned against the spirit of avarice. Christ's mission was preeminently spiritual.

2. Enforcement of the Warning (vv. 16-21). The parable of the rich man shows clearly that to be concerned with earthly riches while neglecting God is the height of folly. The Lord's warning is of great importance today; for many are seeking gold and forgetting God. Note (1) his increase in goods (v. 16). His riches were rightly obtained, for the ground brought forth plentifully. This shows that a man may be rich because of the Lord's blessing upon him. (2) His perplexity (v. 17). His land was producing more than his barns would hold. He did not want it to go to waste. If he had possessed the right views of life and a sense of stewardship before God, he would have seen that his barns at least had enough for his personal needs and that he could have distributed his surplus to the needy and for benevolent purposes. (3) The fatal choice (vv. 18, 19). He chose to enlarge his barns and give up his life to ease and luxury. It ought to be a delightful task for men whom God has made rich to devote their time and energy to the distribution of their possessions to benevolent purposes. (4) The awful indictment (vv. 20, 21). God calls him a fool.

#### II. The Certain Cure for Anxiety (vv. 22-34).

Having shown the folly of the rich man who gained gold but lost God, He now urged the disciples to trust God and dismiss all anxious care. He assured them that they need not be anxious even for the necessities of life.

Note:  
1. The Argument (vv. 22, 23). This is summed up in one brief sentence: "The life is more than food, and the body is more than raiment." The God who gave the life and made the body should be trusted to provide food and clothing.

2. The Illustrations (vv. 24-28). (1) God's care for the fowls (vv. 24-26). The ravens do not sow nor reap—they live, for God feeds them. If God does not forget the fowls, certainly He would do more for His children. (2) God's care for the flowers of the field (vv. 27, 28). If God is so careful of these flowers which appear but for a day, how much more will He clothe His children!

3. The Exhortations (vv. 29-34). (1) Make not the getting of food and clothes your chief concern. Trust God to provide them. (2) Seek the kingdom of God (v. 31). Those who make God's kingdom first shall have all their needs supplied (Phil. 4:19). (3) Be not afraid (v. 32). God's good pleasure is upon His own, and all good things will He give them. (4) Practice self-denial in order to be able to give gifts to those in need (vv. 33, 34). The doing of such deeds will tend to lift the thoughts upward to God—to trust Him.

#### III. Be Ready for the Coming of the Lord (vv. 35-40).

Having warned the disciples against the acquisition of worldly goods while forgetting God, and shown them the needlessness of anxiety for food and clothes, He shows them the blessedness of being in a state of readiness when the Lord shall come. Conviction as to the certainty of the Lord's coming is the sure cure for worldliness and anxious care. This attitude of heart He made clear by two parables—that of the returning of the Lord and that of the thief. The Lord will be so pleased with those who are waiting for Him that He will take delight in sitting at the banquet with them, and even serve them. The parable of the thief shows that the time of the Lord's coming is not known.

## BETTER ROADS

### TESTING SKEW-ARCH BRIDGE

Reinforced Concrete Structures Erected to Find Means for Strengthening the Arch.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A reinforced concrete skew-arch bridge one-fourth the size of a full-size bridge has been built by the bureau of public roads of the United States Department of Agriculture and is being "tested to destruction" to gain information that will make possible the building of stronger structures of this type.

There are many locations where it is necessary to carry a highway diagonally across a stream, engineers



Testing a Skew-Arch Bridge.

explain. Under such conditions it is customary to build what is known as a skew bridge, and when that bridge is an arch, the arch is known as a skew arch, the abutments or supports not being at right angles with the roadway. When the abutments are at right angles to the axis of the arch the structure is known as a right arch. Engineers can design right arches very economically, but there is a great difference of opinion with regard to the economical design of the so-called skew arch.

The principal difference of opinion among engineers is with regard to the manner in which the load is transmitted to the abutments. In the right arch the load on the abutments is the same for each foot of length, but on the skew arch this probably is not the case, and the important question to be settled is the distribution of the load from one end of the abutments to the other.

It was with this object in view that a series of tests has been started on skew arches by the bureau of public roads. At the present time the bureau has under way at its Arlington experiment station a test on a skew arch designed to be one-quarter the size of an actual structure. The arch being tested is 7 feet in span, 4½ feet in width from face to face, and 4 feet in height above the base of the abutments. The crown or midpoint is 2 inches in thickness and the barrel of the arch is reinforced with ¼-inch bars bent very carefully into the correct shape.

The arch is being tested with a uniform load and this loading is being accomplished in a unique manner, as follows: Forty-two spiral springs, each capable of carrying a load of 1,500 pounds, are placed at uniform intervals on top of the arch and each spring supports a 2-inch pipe, which in turn bears against a solid overhead structure. By adjusting the lengths of these pipes the springs are deflected and the amount of load applied to the arch may be controlled by the amount the springs are compressed. In this way it is possible to obtain fine adjustments in the amount of load applied without the necessity for piling on heavy weights. As the load is increased on the arch it deflects and the concrete and steel are deformed or strained, and the engineer wants to know how these strains are distributed.

For the measurement of strains in the concrete a device known as a strain gauge is being used. With this device it is possible to detect strains with an accuracy of .0002 of an inch. By carefully measuring the strains throughout the arch it is possible to determine the manner in which the stress is distributed, and it is believed that through a series of such tests enough information will be obtained to enable the engineer to formulate rules for the economical design of skew arches.

In addition to determining the strains in the arch, the observations include measurements of deflection of the arch under load as well as a measurement of the stress in the tie rods between the abutments.

#### Good Roads Aid Health.

Good roads not only aid in the prevention of disease and the treatment of those already sick, but they are invaluable factors in the development and maintenance of good health.



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## USE THE BEST FAULTLESS STARCH FOR LAUNDRY WORK FOR SHIRTS COLLARS CUFFS AND FINE LINEN

#### Point of View.

He was a child of the rich and he was talking to a child of the poor in Lincoln park, Chicago.

"Say," said the child of the poor, "I know a slick bike ride to take."

"Do you?" said the child of the rich.

"Tell me where so I can sit one of the chauffeurs on to it."

Snowy linens are the pride of every housewife. Keep them in that condition by using Red Cross Ball Blue in your laundry. At all grocers.—Advertisement.

#### Link Measure.

Stranger—Beg pardon, sir. How far is it to the North station?

Golf Bug—I should say about a full drive, three brassies and a putt.—Boston Evening Transcript.

#### And Each a Day's Work.

Young Housekeeper—And these eggs, are they real country eggs?

Grocer—Yes'm, genuine hen-made.



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#### STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST

Gap Johnson's Progeny Naturally Resented the Presence of Interloper in the Family.

"A short distance up the road," said a tourist who had halted his car in front of the residence of Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, "I met a small boy legging it for his life, with a howling mob of children of assorted sizes pursuing him and fairly raining stones, clubs and blistering epithets around him."

"Eh-yah!" replied Mr. Johnson. "The party of the first part was Gabe Giggery's boy, and the mob was composed of some of my children, chasing him home. You see, their maw washed 'em all up a spell ago, and when they looked each other over they found that kid of Gabe's had been amongst 'em for nobody knows how long, eating, drinking and making merry, as it were. Whurupon they gave a united yell of fury and started to swarm all over him, and he let off a screech of terror and defunct out of yur as the crow flies!"—Kansas City Star.

#### Papa's Golf Stockings.

Father, brilliant in striped golf stockings, was off for a day with the family at the Van Cortlandt links. He was complacently self-conscious. Eight-year-old Ethel was fretful and nervous. Several people in the subway car were smiling. Suddenly Ethel piped, "Mamma, can't I have some new stockin's like papa. I wanna look like a zebra, too."

#### Clear as Mud.

"Did he tell you the way?"  
"No; he only gave me directions."—New York Sun.

## A thought on Yuletide giving

### And a few hints on how to fill Father's stocking

Another Christmas is rapidly rolling around.

Another year when you have to sit down and think—and think hard—what to give Uncle Arthur, Father, Cousin Edward, Grandfather and the rest.

Every man—well, nearly every man—likes nothing better than a good pipe. And the chances are that he will find at least one hanging on the Christmas tree and be tremendously pleased.

Right there is your opportunity to step in and give him something to go with the pipe.

Not an ash tray. (He probably has dozens of them.) Not a metal container for safety matches. (He'll never carry the darn thing.) Send him some tobacco. (That's what men usually smoke in pipes.) So to Edgeworth smokers, and to all others who may be interested, we respectfully offer this Christmas suggestion:

a 16-ounce glass jar of Edgeworth Ready-Rubbed.

You'll have to hunt far and wide to find the smoker who won't be tickled to pieces to find a glass jar of Edgeworth beside his

Christmas pipe. If he doesn't get a Christmas pipe, he'll enjoy the tobacco just as much in his old pipe.

The 16-ounce jar sells for \$1.65 at any tobacco store.

If your regular dealer hasn't enough glass jars to supply the Christmas trade, let us play Santa Claus for you.

Send us \$1.65 for each jar, a list of the friends you want to remember, and your personal greetings cards. We'll do the rest.

We'll pack the glass jars in appropriate Christmas boxes, enclose your cards and send them off in plenty of time to reach your friends before Christmas. Meanwhile, if you are not personally acquainted with Edgeworth, we will be glad to send you free samples—generous helpings both of Edgeworth Ready-Rubbed and Plug Slice.

Just send us your name and address on a postal and we will forward the samples promptly. If you will also include the name and address of your tobacco dealer, we will appreciate your courtesy.

Edgeworth is sold in various sizes to suit the needs and means of all purchasers. Both Edgeworth Plug Slice and Ready-Rubbed are packed in small pocket-size packages, in handsome tin humidors and in various handy in-between sizes.

For the Christmas packages or the free samples, address Larus & Brother Company, 41 South 21st Street, Richmond, Va.

To Retail Tobacco Merchants: If your jobber cannot supply you with Edgeworth, Larus & Brother Company will gladly send you prepaid by parcel post a one- or two-dozen carton of any size of Edgeworth Plug Slice or Ready-Rubbed for the same price you would pay the jobber.

Though the world may owe every man a living, only the persistent collector gets it.

Most men as well as women who talk well talk too much.

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